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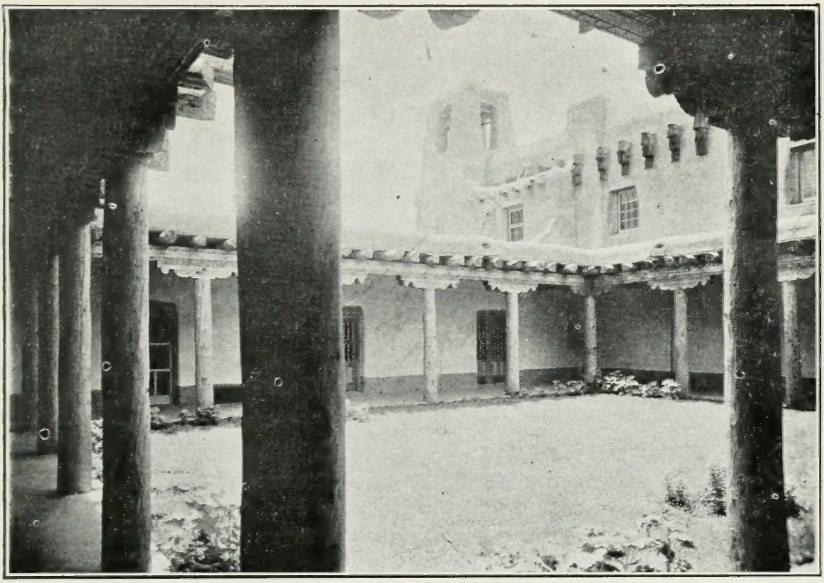

PATIO OF THE ART MUSEUM AT SANTA FE

MUSEUM EVENTS

Visit of National Parks Director

At the suggestion of the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce, a reception was tendered Director Stephen T. Mather, head of the National Park Service, at the Art Museum by the Woman's Museum Board on Sunday afternoon, March 11. The arrangements were placed in the hands of Mrs. Paul A. F. Walter of the Board, while Mrs. James C. McConvery, wife of the president of the Chamber of Commerce, presided at the tea table which was adorned with tulips, pussy willows, and other blossoms. Secretary DeHuff of the Chamber of Commerce introduced the guests, who numbered about a hundred and included besides businessmen, representatives of the local artists, writers and scientific workers, as well as visitors from a distance. Director Mather was prevailed upon to speak on the work to which he is giving his time and talents, the National Park Service. He outlined how from small beginnings the Park Service has become of prime importance to the American people, and how from a few thousands there are now available millions of dollars, thanks to the generosity of Congress and the President, who recognize that the National Parks have become a vital part of the constructive program of the Nation. He pointed out how Congressman Cramton has espoused the cause of the National Parks and how for this year alone $5,000,000 would be available for National Park roads. Highway construction is done thoroughly, as for example more than a million dollars were expended to build a stretch of seven to eight miles of road between

the north rim of the Grand Canyon and Bryce Canyon, part of the road running through tunnels so as not to mar the natural scenery. From the general survey of the field, the speaker referred specificially to the National Park movement in the east, how through the vision of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who is a National Park enthusiast, $5,000,000 were given by the Laura Spellman-Rockefeller Foundation to match $5,000,000 voted by the states of Tennessee, North and South Carolina, to create the Great Smoky Mountain Park of some 600,000 acres of forest, streams and magnificent mountain country, and how a similar movement is creating the Shenandoah National Park in the Blue Ridge, preserving for the people several hundred thousand acres of mountain and forest in their primitive beauty in western Virginia. The speaker defined the differences between national parks and national monuments and told how through the friendliness of Congressman Cramton, who recently visited in Santa Fe and Carlsbad, the annual appropriation for the Carlsbad Cave had been increased to $70,000 and how the popular interest in this Cave is about to raise it to the dignity of a National Park. He outlined the plans for the illumination of the Cave, the building of a superintendent's home in Carlsbad for which the City had donated a site, and other improvements which ordinarily come only to National Parks. While only a few thousand dollars are available for the national monuments in northern New Mexico, these will be expended as wisely as possible. By co-operation with the State Highway Department and Superintendent Jesse Nusbaum of the Mesa Verde National Park, the latter Park will soon be linked up by good highway with the Aztec National Monument, the Chaco National Monument, and Gallup, thus completing an important link in the National Parks

Highway System. The Bandelier National Monument, being under the jurisdiction of the National Forests, does not come under Mr. Mather's department, but he manifested considerable interest in it, intimating that discussions are now under way with Leon Kneipp, of the Forest Service, formerly stationed in Santa Fe, to work out a feasible plan for a National Park of isolated tracts upon which prehistoric ruins or great scenic attractions in the Jemez region are located. However, Director Mather declared that the National Park Service is not seeking new worlds to conquer and that it has its hands full to administer the National Parks now under its jurisdiction, without urging Congress to create more parks. It was Mr. Mather's first visit to Santa Fe, the Puye and Taos, and he praised the work of the Museum of New Mexico and School of American Research. He told of the park museums and the work at the Grand Canyon since it has been elevated to the dignity of a National Park, work that means the expenditure of millions of dollars to make this great scenic region accessible to the people of the country. Mr. Mather was loudly applauded. Because of indisposition, Mrs. Mather could not attend the reception but she has been with Mr. Mather on his trip which took him to most of the National Parks and Monuments, and included the Indian Detour.

March Exhibits

A stroll through the galleries of the Art Museum these March days should prove most interesting to art lovers and students. In few galleries is there on display at the same time such a wide range of pictorial art representative of so many schools of thought. The Cassidy paintings continue to attract attention and receive much

pleasant comment from visitors. In an adjoining alcove, the paintings of Albert H. Schmidt continue to hold the attention. His landscapes: "Rio Medio," "Cottonwoods in Autumn," "A Portal," "An Old Adobe," "Mountains" and "A Gray Day," include the decorative as well as atmospheric effects of much beauty. His still life pictures scintillate with color and realism. In the next alcove, Sheldon Parsons has the following landscapes, representing his winter's work, which, despite handicap of ill health, is brilliant:

Tesuque in January.
Ranchos de San Juan in October.
Near San Juan.
Peñasco.
Alcalde in October.
Santa Fe, January.
Autumn, Alcalde.
In the Rio Grande Canyon.
Autumn Near Tesuque.
Santa Fe, September.
Late Autumn.
Chamisa, Santa Fe.

There has been and is no artist who so delightfully catches the mood of place and season and transfers them to canvas with his brush as Parsons. Even his slightest sketch is likely to be a gem. Gustave Baumann shows three of his newest color wood block prints. Two of them are exquisite studies of desert vegetation, one being entitled "Cholla-Sahuado" and the other Palo Verde and Ocatea. The third picture is a wonderful landscape "Horse Mesa." Baumann comes nearest to the foremost Japanese exponents of the color print in his delicacy of treatment, but his prints also have a robustness and a necromancy

of atmosphere that easily place him at the head of the masters of his art at the present day. Quite different in temper and temperament from the aforementioned exhibits are three pictures by T. P. Scudder. One is a striking portrait and the other two are "Wild Horses" and "Starving Horse," the former a representation of motion and the other of static qualities in life which testify to freedom in draftsmanship and a feeling for rhythm. In the Modern Alcove, the visitor will again find much to study and, if he really studies, — to admire. It is to be doubted whether any other gallery in America offers so consecutive and continuous an opportunity to view, study, and criticise the so-called modern thought in art. Raymond Jonson has studies of the Grand Canyon, which are elemental studies in the arrangement of planes to indicate structure. B. J. O. Nordfeldt has a masterful protrait of a man. Williard Nash exhibits a pleasing portrait study in addition to two drawings and a water color. R. Walton has a still life "Lemons," a landscape and "Tree," the last-named in its starkness an arresting canvas. J. G. Bakos shows "Forms and Space" and a "Winter Landscape," demonstrating his power to seize the vital in a scene and to eliminate needless detail.

Song Recital

Because of illness, John L. Nelson has had to suspend for the present his Sunday afternoon recitals at the Museum. Santa Fe, however, had a musical treat on the evening of March 8, 1928, when Ethelynde Smith, Soprano, who came as guest of the Museum, gave a delightful recital at the Loretto Auditorium. She divided her numbers into groups: "Old Songs," "Folk Songs by American Composers," "The Spring Song of the Robin Woman," by Cadman; and "Songs of Youth."

Gifts to Museum

Corporation Commissioner and Mrs. Hugh Williams have presented to the Museum's linguistic library a ten volume Cymric dictionary and a two volume Cymric Bible.

Mrs. Glauce Wilson Hupp, as a memorial to her mother, Mrs. Olive Wilson L'Amoureaux, has presented the Museum with a finely made and decorated olla by Marie and Julian Martinez of San Ildefonso, which was awarded a prize at the Santa Fe Indian Fair.

IT IS WRITTEN

Lew Wallace Wrote His Own Press Notice

General Lew Wallace wrote the first announcement of his best seller, "Ben Hur." It was before the day of press agents. Loyal to his home paper, The Crawfordsville (Ind.) Journal, he arranged to give the announcement exclusively to its representative, the late Frank W. Gregory. A copy of this brief and comprehensive paragraph, written by General Wallace in the notebook of Mr. Gregory, is now in the possession of Elizabeth Hiatt Gregory, widow of the journalist, subsequently editorial writer and managing editor of the Louisville Commercial and other papers.

General Wallace was seated under the beech tree in his back yard — where he did most of his writing — on an afternoon in May, 1880, when Mr. Gregory came to him. General Wallace said, "Well, you have come after that scoop on the new book, I suppose?"

"Yes," replied Mr. Gregory.

"Hand me your notebook."

Taking the notebook, General Wallace placed it on his knee and wrote the first statement concerning a book which, with the exception of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," has had the largest sale recorded to the credit of novels. It reads as follows:

"The title of the book is 'Ben Hur, a Tale of the Christ.' The hero is a Jew. The scene is variously laid, but chiefly in Antioch and Jerusalem. It opens with the birth of Christ and concludes with His crucifixion. The thirty years' interval between the birth and the entry of Christ upon His mission is filled with accessory incidents on land and on sea, going to show the demoralization which prevailed in the world.

"The book is orthodox, recognizing Christ as the Son of God. Harper Brothers of New York are the publishers, and the copy has been delivered to them. The book will be issued as soon as possible. The author began the book before his appointment as Governor of New Mexico, and one-fourth of it was written in that country. Whatever may be said of it, it must certainly be recognized as original. I believe there has never been anything written similar to it."

PERSONAL MENTION

Made President of Music Teachers

Albert Sievers, who with Mrs. Sievers and his pupils spends the summers in Santa Fe, has been elected president of the Nebraska Music Teachers' Association. He is instructor at the Nebraska Wesleyan conservatory of music at Lincoln, Neb.

Director of Philadelphia Commercial Museum

The late William Powell Wilson, wellknown in Santa Fe, has been succeeded by F. M. Huntington Wilson, as director of the Philadelphia Commercial Museum by F. M. Huntington Wilson, a wellknown journalist, diplomat, and traveler.

Distinguished Visitors

Among noted authors who visited the Museum the past week were: George H. Leach, editor of the *Forum* and authority on Scandiavian folk-lore; Carl Van Vechten who was a guest of Andrew Dasburg, the painter; and Grant Overton, who addressed the Santa Fe Woman's Club on Tuesday afternoon emphasizing that the factors in Santa Fe's future should be climate, scenery and education. Ambassador Massey of Canada and Mrs. Massey were also visitors.

NEW MEXICO ARTISTS

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Sharp in South America

J. H. Sharp of the Taos Society of Artists writes as follows from Puente del Inca on the boundary between Chile and Argentine Republic: "I enclose blossoms picked from the 'foothills' (10,000 feet) of Mount Aconcagua over 23,000 feet, a tremendous and glorious mass of snow and rock. We are right in the heart of the Andes, stopping a few days in a little stone hotel with the most beautiful mountains surrounding us. Just room

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along the stream for the narrow gauge railroad and a few buildings. From Buenos Ayres for a day and night the pampas are just like a level floor, and at sunrise we caught the first glimpse of the Andes! We leave tomorrow for Santiago and sail north from Valparaiso February 15th stopping at several places. Expect to be in Pasadena by the end of March or beginning of April. We found Rio de Janeiro the most enchanting and beautiful place in the world we have yet seen. I haven't even opened my water color box and don't intend to!" The letter is addressed to Mrs. Van Stone, librarian and art curator of the Museum.

AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Ancient Mexican Carvings in Church Floor

In the Zapotec village of Zaachila in the valley of Oaxaca, a number of important prehistoric stone carvings have been found incorporated in a four-century-old Christian church. The position they occupy suggests that they must have been of great importance to the Indians in precolonial times, and the Director of Archaeology of the Mexican Department of Public Education is planning to remove them to the city of Oaxaca where their significance may be studied. The ten-foot doorstep of the church of Santa Maria of Zaachila is a single monolith which still shows the signs of ancient carvings in spite of the wear and tear of four centuries of footsteps. But a smaller slab, apparently of much harder stone, has resisted the years much better and shows beautiful carvings of a style that indicates strong Maya influence. This slab is the first stone of the floor just inside of the doorstep. It is divided into three segments framed by grooved lines. The first segment represents a god similar to the Maya "Diving God," socalled because he is always found in the act of descending from heaven in a jack-knife dive. In the case of the Zaachila stone, the god appears to be dropping from a sort of a vault which looks like a symbolized upper jaw with all its teeth. The god wears plumes in his hair and the "language sign" comes from his mouth. He has with him his "penache," the label by which one who is reading the Maya sign language could tell his name. A necklace hangs from his hands, and is probably meant to represent the well-known collars of jadeite pebbles so

popular with ancient Zapotecs and Mixtecs, and for which Oaxaca is famous. Receiving the god on the ground below, seated crosslegged on either side and facing the center, are two other human figures, probably beating drums, and wearing curious crownlike headgear. They are not dressed alike, in spite of their symmetrical position, and they may represent different sexes. The language sign also comes from their mouths. The second and third segments of the slabs are similar to the first, except that the figure of the Diving God is found only in the latter. The figures are likewise seated crosslegged, the soles of their feet turned out, and they are occupied with drumshaped objects. The spaces are filled with scrolls whose meaning has not been studied. The faces of some of the seated figures are completely obliterated, while others are only partly destroyed so that faces are concavities. At first appearance it might seem that the position of the slab at the first step down from the threshold explains the destruction, but on reconsideration it is evident that, if it were only the natural wear of feet, the destruction would be uniform and not just in spots. The fact that the slab is laid down on the most stepped-on place on the floor makes it appear deliberate, and it was probably done to demonstrate to the early Indian converts the impotency of their native gods. In the National Museum at Mexico City there are a number of wooden "huehuetls," ancient drums used by the Indians, carved in numerous figures of gods and priests, also with their faces scratched out. The fact that these two stones, the doorstep and the slab on the floor just inside, were singled out for the most stepped-on position in the church, suggests that they were important symbols in the prehistoric religion whose influence the early missionaries attempted to destroy. The

church itself is built near the largest of a number of prehistoric mounds which were probably the substructures of old Zapotec or Mixtec temples, no relics of which now remain. The sites are stripped of even the stones which once faced the sides of the mounds and formed the stairways, and ancient Zaachila was probably used as building material for Colonial Zaachila. High up in the uneven masonry of the old church a broken stone with carved symbols stands out. The village has about 1000 inhabitants. It is out of the beaten track and visitors are rare, and the hamlet has probably changed very little in many generations. The church is a few steps from the market plaza, and the Indian in trouble comes in between barterings for pigs and turkeys or chili, to wail his prayer before the Black Christ on the Crucifix or to the primitively carved and painted saints and madonnas. He kisses the floor in front of the statues, and as he passes out to go back to his fields or to his "puesto" in the market, he gazes curiously, but very hurriedly, at the carved stone slab he no longer understands. The village is not a friendly place to a tactless visitor and the modern Zapotecs and Mixtecs do not like strange things they do not understand to be done in their church, just as four centuries ago they resented having their original native Indian religion tampered with. In a church in the town of Oaxaca, not many miles away, there is a historical painting of the conversion in Zaachila in 1521, of Cosijoeza, the last native ruler in the Valley of Oaxaca, who was afterwards known as Don Carlos Cosijoeza, according to the label of the picture. This suggests that Zaachila might have been an important center of precolonial civilization. There are other archaeological relics in this village besides the ones in the town church. On another side of the plaza an old colonial house

has as part of the street pavement by its doorstep a large flat stone that bears what is probably a date, according to the Maya system of writing down time. The symbols consist of the conventional Maya bars, dots, and heads. In the back yard of another house nearby is another monolith covered with carvings on two sides, which also appear to be dates. This stone, it is said in the village, once formed the cover of a sepulchre in one of the great earth mounds outside of the village, which formed the substructures of temples in ancient times. Very few outsiders have seen these stones. They were first reported to the Mexican government by Señor Martin Bazan, federal inspector of archaeology for the State of Oaxaca. They are about to be removed to the museum at the city of Oaxaca.—Emma Rel Stevension in *Science Service.*

Mosaic Disc Found at Chichen Itza

Buried under the dust of centuries, a superb mosaic disc, containing a thousand or more beautifully polished pieces of turquoise, has been discovered by excavators in Yucatan. Archaeologists of the Carnegie Institution, who made the find at the Temple of Warriors in Chichen Itza on March 6, say that the disc is the most artistic and elaborate of all the known relics of Maya civilization.

Primitive Child Burials Near Flagstaff

Two child burials have been uncovered in the prehistoric Indian ruins of the Wupatki National Monument, in Arizona. Jesse C. Clarke, custodian of the reservation, who made the excavations, reports that in one burial a cradle board was lying over the body, which bore a shell

necklace and was accompanied by three pieces of pottery. In the other burial the cradle board was underneath the body. Four pots were found with it. Both burials had been wrapped in matting, but moisture had crept in and spoiled it so that only a small piece could be salvaged. It is believed that the prehistoric buildings at Wupatki were constructed by the Snake family of the Hopi Indians in their migration from the Grand Canyon, where, according to their mythology, their ancestors came upward from the Underworld.

Basket Maker Remains Dissected

Remains of America's primitive inhabitants have been dissected by Gale E. Wilson, anatomist, of the Harvard Medical School. The remains are those of the Basket Maker Indians, who lived in the Southwest in pre-spanish days. Repeated tests have failed to reveal traces of blood in Egyptian mummies, but in the American specimens were found red blood cells, shrunken and dried but perfectly preserved. A large quantity of fine soot and sand was found throughout the lung material of the Indians. This is attributed to their breathing the dry and dusty atmosphere of the region where they lived. It indicates that these prehistoric people suffered from the same lung disease, silicosis, that affects miners today. Unlike the Egyptian mummies, which were prepared by elaborate processes, these bodies were not embalmed at all. They were simply buried, and their preservation is due to the unusual drying qualities of hot sand and warm dry climate.

PRIMITIVE MAN

Cave Dwellers in China

The discovery of further traces of prehistoric men in China and the recent finding of teeth which belonged to ancient human beings like the Neanderthal men of Europe, have attracted geologists to intensive study of the prehistoric Chinese scene. The evolution of the land surface on which early man dwelt in North China has been studied by Prof. George Barbour, of Yenching University, Peking, and reported to the New York Academy of Sciences. In the era before man appeared, the land had been worn down almost level and the rivers flowed smoothly over flat country, Prof. Barbour's survey showed. Then this flat land was suddenly broken up by the same disturbance that pushed up the Alps, the Rockies, and the Himalayas. The rivers had barely succeeded in opening out the valleys when a slight buckling of the surface dammed the streams back into lakes. "About this time," said Prof. Barbour, "we find the first traces of primitive man, or some close relative of his, living in a limestone cave overlooking the Peking plain." With a change of climate the rivers flowed more swiftly and cut narrow gorges, making the surface of China more rugged. As the soil was worn away, gentle upheavals in the earth's crust pushed the surface of Mongolia up, and cold dry winds blew over these high altitudes, picking up the dust and sweeping it along in immense quantities. The blanket of dust in some regions became as deep as 800 feet, and forms the famous loess of China. In the limestone caves of China have been found stone axes and arrows belonging to the prehistoric men, and with the weapons are the bones of mammoths, deer,

rhinoceroses and other animals, and the broken eggshells of ostriches. The teeth found near Peking and considered as possibly belonging to the oldest human inhabitants of China were from one of these ancient cave shelters. A communication from China, just received by Prof. Barbour, states that new specimens of human fossil teeth have been found and are designated as belonging to the Neanderthal period, which in Europe was about 50,000 years ago.—*Science Service.*

EGYPTOLOGY

Tomb of Senmut Excavated

The story of Senmut, an Egyptian architect who wanted a kingly burial, is pieced together following the latest excavations at Thebes made by the Metropolitan Museum's Egyptian Expedition. While digging around the ruins of a temple which Senmut built for Egyptian Queen Hatshepsut, the expedition discovered steps leading down deep into the ground, H. E. Winlock reports. Here, 100 yards below the surface, was found the unfinished secret tomb which the architect was building for himself while he worked on the queen's temple. Senmut stood so high in the favor of Queen Hatshepsut that he bore the high-sounding titles of Chief Guardian of the King's Daughter, High Steward of the royal household, Superintendent of the Royal Slaves, and Superintendent of the Royal Bedrooms. But this commoner yearned for permanent records of his close association with royalty. Two years ago, this ambition was indicated when the expedition discovered that Senmut had ordered his own portrait in-

troduced behind every door in the temple he was building. "And now," says Mr. Winlock, "this past season we find him tunneling right under the temple enclosure to make a tomb for himself suggestively like Hatshepsut's own." The tomb was like the queen's in its plan, in its secrecy, and like the queen's in that it tunneled toward the sacred precincts of the temple. Senmut even went further and dared link his name with that of the ruler of Egypt. On the ceiling of his tomb was written in hieroglyphs a sentence in flowery Egyptian which in plain English contains the idea, "Long live the King of Upper and Lower Egypt (Hatshepsut) and the Chancellor, the Steward of Amon, Senmut," But the ambitious architect never had the satisfaction of inhabiting his regal secret tomb. Hatshepsut and her officials were involved in political intrigues which ended in Thutmose III taking Hatshepsut's place as the King of Egypt. Senmut's downfall came first, the new excavations show. For his portraits in the tomb are mutilated while Hatshepsut is still respectfully left alone. "As soon as news arrived of the end of the Great Steward, orders were given to close up his presumptuous new tomb," Mr. Winlock states. "Workmen went down to the decorated chamber and smashed the faces of Senmut wherever they noticed them. Hastily gathering together bricks and stones at the mouth of the tomb they started to wall it up, but the work did not go fast enough, and before they had finished their wall they gave it up and raked down dirt just enough to cover over the doorway." When the expedition entered the walled up tomb, it found only one room had been decorated by Senmut's workmen before the downfall. Walls of the chamber were lined with hieroglyphics. The real gem of the room, however, is the ceiling which represents a chart of the heavens. This is pronounced one of the best and one of the earliest

astronomical charts yet found, drawn by the most skilful penmen of the fifteenth century.

ORIENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Greek Art in Mongolia

Life on the high plateau of Tibet is so hard that the inhabitants, especially the women, are dying out, according to Prof. Peter Kozlov, famous Russian explorer. "The want of women in Tibet gives rise to peculiar customs," he states in an account of his latest expedition which has just reached this country. "Several brothers, sometimes as many as four or five, marry the same Tibetian woman." Excavating an ancient tomb in Mongolia, Professor Kozlov discovered a Greek tapestry and a carpet representing a deer on whose back is a winged lynx. Such discoveries as these in eastern tombs indicate that the ancient Greek art and culture spread as far east as Mongolia, he declared.

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Period Rooms in Philadelphia

More and more American museums are realizing that their most important function is public education. The ancient Chinese proverb that one picture is worth ten thousand words is especially applicable to public institutions which must of necessity appeal to the average level of intelligence. The Philadelphia Museum of Art, whose new building is slowly nearing the point of coherence, announces that the public will shortly be able to

see in all their original significance the historic ballroom of the Samuel Powel residence, which was built in 1786, and the room designed by Bulfinch for the noted Ezekiel Derby house of 1799—1800 on Essex Street, Salem, Mass. Regrettably, space limitations prevent giving the interesting details of either of these authentic and interesting examples of American colonial design, When the Museum is completed, it will contain a series of no less than thirty-seven authentic period rooms flanking and leading into the main galleries and affording a graphic educational exhibit of the evolution of architectural design and decorative art. The importance of such a splendid exposition can hardly be overestimated in these days of decadent taste and loose thinking, and should exercise a permanent effect for good.—*Art and Archaeology.*

PLEASING COMMENT

FROM EDITOR OF SCHOOL JOURNAL

Writes Lucie H. Schacht, editor of *Chicago School Journal*: "May I say that for a tiny magazine *El Palacio* is full of interesting material. That little article on the mental tests given the Indian children reported in the February 18 number was most interesting to our psychology people."

"El Palacio is a gem. All Americanists owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude for producing such a uniformly interesting journal."—Ernst C. Krohn, St. Louis, Mo.